



KENTUCKY

# General News

March 2009

## A Victory For Kentucky Families

### Governor Beshear Signs Conway's Cybersafety Legislation

Attorney General Jack Conway and Representative Johnny Bell thank lawmakers on both sides of the aisle for their support of a comprehensive cybersafety bill. After unanimous approval by both the Kentucky House and Senate, Gov. Steve Beshear signed House Bill 315 on March 26. The law will strengthen state statutes to better protect children from Internet predators and bring state statutes up-to-date with technology. The bill becomes law on July 1, 2009.

"Rep. Bell and I appreciate lawmakers working together to keep Kentucky kids safe," General Conway said. "This legislation serves as a warning that Kentucky will not tolerate criminals who are trying to harm Kentucky kids."

General Conway's Cybercrimes legislation is the result of reviewing the Kentucky Revised Statutes to identify areas where the law lags technology, as well as listening to law enforcement and parents from across the Commonwealth.



#### Cybercrimes Legislation At a Glance

- ▶ Prohibits sex offenders from logging onto social networking sites used by children under the age of 18.
- ▶ Requires that sex offenders update their email addresses and online identifiers with the Sex Offender Registry and creates a searchable database of sex offender email addresses and online identifiers.
- ▶ Amends Kentucky's stalking statute to include cyberstalking
- ▶ Clarifies that it is a crime for a person to transmit live sexually explicit images to minors over the Internet or other network.
- ▶ Allows police to seize personal property, such as a computer or car, used by a predator in the commission of a sex offense against a child.
- ▶ Administrative subpoena power.

In addition to passage of the cybercrimes bill, General Conway also fulfilled his commitment to create a Cybercrimes Unit to investigate crimes that occur online. A member of the Internet Crimes Against Children task force (ICAC), the unit has launched 13 child pornography investigations, seized 10,000 child pornographic images and opened a cybercrimes lab to process digital evidence.

More information — <http://tinyurl.com/c8n28l>

## Attorney General Conway Announces \$2.4 Million Settlement With Pharmaceutical Company



Kentucky Attorney General  
Jack Conway

Attorney General Conway has announced a \$2.4 million settlement with Amgen, Inc., a Fortune 500 biotechnology and pharmaceutical company, with a subsidiary in Louisville. The Office of the Attorney General filed a lawsuit in Franklin Circuit Court alleging that Amgen and 47 other pharmaceutical companies defrauded the Kentucky Medicaid Program and violated Kentucky consumer protection laws by publishing significantly inflated average wholesale prices for prescription drugs. The lawsuit alleged that Amgen marketed the "spread" between the inflated average wholesale prices (AWPs) and the real prices as a means of maximizing its own profits and those of pharmacists who were being reimbursed at the higher Medicaid rate.

A settlement is not an admission of liability in a civil case.

More information — <http://tinyurl.com/ck5bac>

## Debt-Relief Scams On the Rise



Attorney General Conway is warning consumers that debt-relief scams are on the rise in Kentucky. General Conway and his Consumer Protection Division have received an increased number of complaints from victims of financial scams and consumers who have been contacted by suspicious companies.

“While more Kentuckians are unfortunately facing layoffs during the economic downturn, scam artists are working overtime to prey on people’s fears and trick debt-ridden consumers into paying money for bogus debt-relief services or non-existent government grants,” cautioned General Conway.

Many of these bogus companies call consumers with messages such as, “it appears that you qualify for a \$1,000 advance, if you call today, you will get first priority status.” General Conway strongly encourages consumers not to respond to these offers, nor should they complete online forms in order to qualify for the so-called “free grants.”

“These could be efforts by con artists to steal credit-card information, to make unauthorized charges or to steal personal information to further victimize the consumer with identity theft,” General Conway said.

More information — <http://tinyurl.com/c4plcx>

## Consumers Should Also Be Leery of “Jamaican” Telemarketing Scam

If winning \$2.5 million dollars sounds too good to be true, it probably is. The so-called “Jamaican” telemarketing prize scam is making its way across the Commonwealth.

“From the reports we’re receiving right now, the caller informs the person who answers the phone that he or she will be receiving \$2.5 million. The only condition to receiving the money is that the winner has to send a check or wire money to the organization in Kingston, Jamaica prior to getting the prize,” said General Conway.

The following are some important tips from the Office of the Attorney General to protect against telephone scams:

- ▶ Never send any money to claim a “prize.”
- ▶ Beware of any caller who claims to be an IRS official, a bank official or a U.S. Customs agent announcing they are “holding your prize check” until a fee is sent to release the funds.
- ▶ Do not send money by wire service or check to a telemarketer telling you they are holding money for you.
- ▶ Never give your credit card, social security or bank account number to someone you don’t know.

If you receive a suspicious telemarketing call, please contact the Office of the Attorney General’s Consumer Protection Hotline toll-free at 888-432-9257.

## duPont Manual High School Takes Top Honors In LifeSmarts Competition

The Life Skills Team at Louisville’s duPont Manual High School took top honors in the 10th annual LifeSmarts State Competition on the campus of Kentucky State University. LifeSmarts is a consumer education game-show style competition held in partnership with the Department of Financial Institutions, the Department of Insurance, the Better Business Bureau, Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service and the Office of the Attorney General.

Manual edged out Mason County High to claim the state championship. The team, which includes Evan Coleman, Nick LeClaire, Kayla Johnson, David Logsdon and Jesse Freeman, will represent Kentucky at the national LifeSmarts Competition in St. Louis in April.

